

Application No.: 09/578,503**Docket No.: 1509-114****REMARKS**

The indication of claims 8, 20, 21 and 27 containing allowable subject matter is noted. To this end, applicant has amended (1) claim 8 to include the subject matter of claims 1, 2 and 6, as previously presented, (2) claim 20 to include the subject matter of claims 16 and 18, as previously presented, (3) claim 21 to include the subject matter of claim 14 as previously presented, and (4) claim 27 to include the subject matter of claims 4, 25 and 26, as previously presented.

Independent claims 1, 4, 14 and 16 have been amended to define the word "refinement" previously used in these claims. The definition indicates the refinement includes adding details to the high-level policy definition. The definition is in accordance with the discussion on page 4, penultimate paragraph of the application as filed. Claims 29-32 have been added to provide applicants with the protection to which they are deemed entitled. Claims 29-32 include aspects of the "refinement" that are also set forth in the penultimate paragraph on page 4 of the application as filed.

The amendment to independent claims 1, 4, 14 and 16 obviates the anticipation rejection of claims 1, 9, 10, 14, 16, and 22-24, as well as the obviousness rejection of claims 2-4, 6, 7, 15, 18, 19, 25, 26, and 28 based on Raab et al., U.S. Patent 5,751,967. The Raab high-level policy refinement is described as a table of attribute mappings to values. This is altogether different from adding details to the high-level policy definition that is now defined in the independent claims. Based on the foregoing, the independent claims and all the claims dependent thereon are allowable over the Raab et al. reference.

Newly added claims 29-32 also distinguish over Raab et al. by indicating that the refinement information adds details to the high-level policy to maintain the refined policy a humanly

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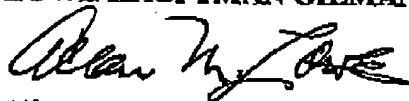
understandable policy. The Raab et al. reference does not disclose or make obvious the features of claims 29-32.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested and deemed in order.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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